CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HELD WEDNESDAY, 9 APRIL 1986, AT 8:30 P.M.
IN ROOM H-762, HALL BUILDING, SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS CAMPUS

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING:

BD-47-D1: Co-Presidents' Report
BD-47-D2: Hiring and Appointments Policy
BD-47-D3: Amendments to the ANEQ By-laws and Standing Orders

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Acting Chairperson Georges Berberi called the meeting to order at 8:50 p.m. and gave the floor to Frank Benson to do the roll call and distribute Installation Packages to the Directors.

PRESENT:

Co-Presidents:

Karen Takacs
Scott White

Engineering:

Jon Jolivet

Commerce:

Karen Ashton
Scott Bergen
Bernard Villemaire

Fine Arts:

Ian Fleet
Francois Gurik
Keren Penney

Arts and Science:

Maggie Arbour
Maria Calderone
Glen Cheverie
Joe Fortune
Mike Foster
Jim Locke
Linda Piovesan
Bettina Rosenberg
Julie Smith
Emma Tibaldo
Scott Townsend

ABSENT:

Arts and Science: Amanda Masterman (W/R), Brian Zelnicker
Commerce: Tony Ghannamy
Engineering: Dan Artola, James Crone, Doug Hardy
Fine Arts: Elizabeth Isaac

Advisors to the Board Present: Frank Benson, Chairperson, Judicial Board; Peter Wheeland, outgoing Communications V.P.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Karen Takacs requested that Item 5(a) Hiring and Appointments Policy be deferred until the next meeting in order to give the new directors an opportunity to read the document. She also asked that the recommendations made at the general assemblies earlier in the day be added to the Agenda as well as the Amendments to the ANEQ By-laws and Standing Orders (BD-47-D3). Jon Jolivet asked to add a motion in support of Dr. Kwok Chan. Maria Calderone stated the need to set a policy regarding CUSA's role in coming to the aid of teachers who are facing contract negotiations. Karen Takacs responded that ultimately if students have a concern, they have a right to express it to CUSA. Acting Chairperson Georges Berberi agreed to add these items, stating that Question Period would be added as Item 5 following the Co-Presidents' Report, and that these other items would come under Item 6: New Business (a) Motions Adopted by the Student General Assemblies, (b) Amendments to the ANEQ By-Laws and Standing Orders, and (c) Motion in Support of Dr. Kwok Chan. Adjournment will now be Item 7.

The Agenda was approved with these amendments.

3. Chairperson's Remarks:

Acting Chairperson Georges Berberi expressed his congratulations to Ron Hiscox and Mike Judson for their accomplishments as Co-Presidents last year. He also wished to give some advice to the new directors and explained to them that CUSA is a democratic system and arguments are a natural part of that system; however, he cautioned, during such arguments the directors must respect themselves, respect the university and respect their futures. He continued his remarks by stating that CUSA is beyond average in that it takes an effort to become involved, an effort that the average student is not willing to make.

(9:30)

4. Co-Presidents' Report:

Scott White and Karen Takacs presented the document "Co-Presidential Goals and Priorities: 1986-87" (BD-47-D3) for discussion. Scott White explained that the purpose of this document was to show what the Co-Presidents hoped to accomplish during the year and to try to focus CUSA on certain activities because there is not enough time in the year to do everything. This document dealt with the Co-Presidents' views on the following topics: CUSA-ECA negotiations, Campus Centre/Cusacorp, Capital Campaign, reforms in CUSA finances, newspaper autonomy, CUSA services, radio broadcasting, course evaluation, moves and alterations and space requests, summer projects, TravelCUTS/Travel Resource Club controversy, new CUSA logo, and any unexpected developments that may occur during the year.

Karen Takacs stated that the Co-Presidents wanted to keep the Board informed about what they are doing. She urged the Directors not to only attend the Board meetings but to become more involved. She suggested that the Directors become actively involved with the various departments once the Vice-Presidents have been appointed.

(10:15)

5. Question Period:

Glen Cheverie asked how the Directors could obtain a copy of Robert's Rules of Order. Scott White explained that the essential information pertaining to CUSA's Board meetings is contained in the "Guide to CUSA Board of Directors Meetings" contained in the Installation Packages. If anyone has a further interest in the rules of procedure, Scott White suggested that they obtain a copy.

Maria Calderone wished to know what had happened to Karen Herland and the Status of Women Committee. Karen Takacs reported that she had received a letter from Elizabeth Morey, Advisor to the Rector on the Status of Women, requesting whether or not CUSA would be donating to the Committee again. Karen Herland had been working as a research assistant on this Committee, and Karen Takacs agreed to contact her to ask her to provide CUSA with a written report about her activities in 1985-86.

Maria Calderone asked when the Vice-Presidents would be brought before the Board. Karen Takacs explained that the deadline for applications had been set for April 18th, and that the Co-Presidents would be interviewing everyone who applied. They hoped to find a place for all applicants, although not necessarily as Vice-Presidents. She further explained that the Board would not just ratify these appointments but that the Board would vote on the candidates. Peter Wheeland asked what had happened to the planned Hiring Committee to look at the Vice-President appointments. Karen Takacs explained that there had not been enough time to set up the Hiring Committee prior to interviewing the first applicants. However, she stated that she was willing to set up a provisional committee at this point in time, although she felt that the best course of action would be to bring all the candidates to the Board and let the Board vote. Ian Fleet asked if the Board would be able to see the candidates' resumes, and Karen Takacs assured him that the resumes would be distributed. Karen Takacs stated that at the next Board meeting, they hoped to appoint at least the Education Vice-President and the Finance Vice-President, and other Vice-Presidents as well although those positions are not as critical.

A provisional hiring committee will be formed. It will be composed of the two Co-Presidents, Maria Calderone, Jim Locke and Emma Tibaldo.

(10:30)

6. New Business:

a) Motions Adopted by the Student General Assemblies on April 9, 1986:

Peter Wheeland explained that the General Assemblies at Loyola and at Sir George were held to decide on any action to be taken in view of the proposed government cuts of $15.5 million for university operating costs and $24 million for student aid.

MOTION 295:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Concordia students voice their firm and unconditional opposition to cutbacks in university and student aid budgets by a day of action on Tuesday, April 15, 1986 to bring to the attention of the government and the population the serious consequences of the proposed cuts.

And further that the following activities be organized for the day of action:

a) that we occupy the offices of the MNA's in the Loyola (Reed Scowen) and Sir George (Jacques Chagnon) constituencies on Monday, April 14 at 1:00 p.m.

b) that Concordia join in an action with the other universities and CEGEPs in Montreal in a march to the government offices in the Hydro-Quebec building.

c) that a day of mourning be held (for those students we will have lost due to budget cutbacks).

d) that CUSA organize a letter-signing (or writing) campaign of protest letters to MNA's, the Ministers of Education and Finance, and the President of the Treasury Board.

e) that CUSA organize a rally in the Hall Mezzanine and Campus Centre cafeteria prior to occupying the offices of the MNA's.

f) that literature, letter and petition tables be set up in strategic locations throughout the day of action.

g) that a telegram be sent to the Premier, the Education Minister and the President of the Treasury Board protesting the government proposals.

h) that CUSA send a delegation to the Parliamentary Commission hearing where the "credits" for the education budget will be discussed.

i) that CUSA support the ANEQ Central Council call for a protest demonstration in Quebec City.

Moved by: Glen Cheverie
Seconded by: Maria Calderone

Discussion:

Jon Jolivet wanted to know who would be sending the telegram referred to in (g) above. Peter Wheeland explained that he would compose it, but that it would be signed by Karen Takacs and Scott White. Frank Benson asked about the legal ramifications of occupying the MNA's offices and wondered who would be advising the students. Peter Wheeland stated that he was unsure but that organization meetings were scheduled for tomorrow at both campuses and they would discuss this item. Karen Takacs expressed how much help is needed if this day of action is going to have any effect and urged the Directors to recruit people to help and to speak out in their classes.

VOTE ON MOTION 295: 16/0/1 Carried

(10:45)

c) Motion in Support of Dr. Kwok Chan:

Acting Chairperson Georges Berberi gave the floor to Shloime Perel and Athena Marinskis, former President of the Applied Social Science Students' Association to speak about Dr. Kwok Chan. Shloime Perel stated that Dr. Chan was going before the Joint Grievance Committee on April 14th in an effort to get his contract renewed. He stated that the majority of students in the Applied Social Science program support Dr. Chan as evidenced by the student evaluation forms; however, these evaluation forms were disregarded by the APSS Personnel Advisory Committee when considering the renewal of his contract even though these forms were tailor-made for APSS by the Learning Development Office. He further stated that Dr. Chan has the support of the faculty association as well as support from within the APSS department. Shloime Perel went on to say that the treatment Dr. Chan has received in this matter has been degrading: for example, he was forced to take two APSS courses even though he has earned his Ph.D. Dr. Chan was also under faculty observation for 47.5 hours while he taught--this surveillance obstructed the free-flowing interaction natural in APSS courses by making the students uptight about being observed, and as such was not an accurate reflection of his teaching skills. Karen Takacs commented that she found it difficult to make a decision in support of a professor relatively unknown to CUSA, and asked what kind of faculty support there was for Dr. Chan. Shloime Perel stated that there was official faculty support. Maria Calderone stated that she was sympathetic to the case but cautioned that a lot of teachers have to go through contract negotiations and this might lead to a number of students bringing their favourite teachers to the Board for support. Although she admitted that students need good teachers, she also felt a need for the Board to develop some sort of policy in this regard.

(11:00)

Jim Locke asked whether outgoing Education Vice-President Yael Lifshitz had prepared a report on this matter as was discussed at a previous Board meeting. Jon Jolivet reported that he had spoken with both Yael Lifshitz and former Co-President Mike Judson, and that they had not talked about her doing such a report. Scott White and Karen Takacs confirmed that the report was not done, and if preparations for a report were begun now, the report would not be completed in time for the hearing. Karen Takacs asked Shloime Perel how he knew the student evaluations were as good as he was saying they were. He stated that he had seen them through the years, and especially the 1985 ones were Dr. Chan scored very well in all the courses he taught. Shloime Perel added that the professors who carried out the 47.5 hours of observation were the same professors who tried to get rid of Dr. Chan before. Karen Takacs commented that she would not be comfortable in taking a stand of support for Dr. Chan, but stated that she would be prepared to ask the Joint Grievance Committee to take the student evaluations into consideration when reviewing this case.

MOTION 296:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the CUSA Board of Directors urge that student evaluations be considered in the appeal of Professor Kwok Chan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CUSA Board of Directors express its strong concern with the questionable manner in which this case has been handled.

Moved by: Scott White
Seconded by: Jon Jolivet

VOTE ON MOTION 296: 14/0/2 Carried

7. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 p.m.

Georges Berberi, Acting Chairperson

Jo Howard, Recording Secretary